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U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Everglades National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release  
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### **Everglades National Park General Management Plan (GMP) - Public Scoping Notice**

Everglades National Park is about to start preparing a new comprehensive plan for the park. The document produced will be a General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for the 1.5 million-acre park that will guide park management for the next twenty years. All national parks are required to have an approved general management plan. The park's most recent comprehensive document is a 1979 *Master Plan* that does not take into account many current issues facing the park.

**Public Workshops** have been scheduled as part of the project kick-off. These sessions, called "scoping" meetings, will identify the scope of the project in a public and participatory manner. The events will run from 3:30 to 8:00 PM for each date below, with opportunities to hear presentations about the project and have a wide-range of discussions with Everglades National Park staff about many aspects of the park. There will be afternoon and evening sessions in order to provide for increased attendance and participation. Spanish speaking park staff will be at the workshops.

<b>January 28, 2003</b>	<b>Everglades City School</b> , 415 School Drive, Everglades City
<b>January 29, 2003</b>	<b>Naples Beach and Golf Club</b> , 851 Gulf Shore Boulevard North, Naples
<b>January 30, 2003</b>	<b>Key Largo Holiday Inn</b> , Mile Marker 99, Key Largo
<b>February 18, 2003</b>	<b>Florida International University</b> – Graham Center, 11200 SW 8 <sup>th</sup> Street, Miami
<b>February 19, 2003</b>	<b>Key Colony Beach City Hall</b> , Mile Marker 53, Key Colony Beach
<b>February 20, 2003</b>	<b>Keys Gate Golf and Tennis Club</b> , 2300 Palm Drive, Homestead

The GMP will provide a broad framework to guide decisions regarding long-range park management, natural and cultural resource protection, preservation of wilderness values, appropriate types and levels of visitor activities, and the extent of facility development desired. The GMP will articulate the park's mission, and define the resource conditions and visitor experiences that should be achieved and maintained over time. A small sample of likely issues include:

- determining resource management and visitor use opportunities for the approximately 109,000-acre East Everglades Addition, in the park's northeast corner;

- balancing use in high-visitation areas with the need to provide safe, high-quality experiences that minimize harm to the environment;
- determining management requirements for the protection of land- and water-based biological and scientific resources for which the park was established, including threatened and endangered species;
- insuring that recreation and visitor activities occur consistent with the park's legal and policy requirements; and
- enhancing opportunities for South Florida's diverse population to experience Everglades National Park.

Everglades National Park invites the participation of all individuals and organizations with an interest in the park throughout the course of this several-year effort. There will be numerous opportunities for the public to help shape the GMP, by contributing ideas and concerns about the park that will serve to enhance its future management. Participation by communities throughout South Florida, Indian tribes, government and private organizations, and the general public will be crucial to the plan's success.

To be added to the project mailing or e-mail list please contact the park at Everglades National Park, 40001 State Road 9336, Homestead, FL 33034, attn: Fred Herling or [EVER\\_GMP@nps.gov](mailto:EVER_GMP@nps.gov). You may also keep current of the most recent GMP information through the park's planning webpage: [http://www.nps.gov/ever/gmp/gmp\\_index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/ever/gmp/gmp_index.htm).